

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE No. 1:14CR194 (Defendant #3)
)	
Plaintiff,)	JUDGE BENITA Y. PEARSON
)	Magistrate Judge George J. Limbert
v.)	
)	
LAVERNE EUGENE FORTSON,)	<u>REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION</u>
)	<u>OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE</u>
Defendant.)	

Pursuant to General Order 99-49, this case was referred on January 30, 2015 to United States Magistrate Judge George J. Limbert for the purposes of receiving, on consent of the parties, Defendant's offer of a plea of guilty, conducting the colloquy prescribed by Fed. R. Crim. P. 11, causing a verbatim record of the proceedings to be prepared, referring the matter for presentence investigation, and submitting a Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation stating whether the plea should be accepted and a finding of guilty entered. ECF Dkt. #198. The following, along with the transcript or other record of the proceedings submitted herewith, constitutes the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation concerning the plea of guilty proffered by Defendant.

1. On February 13, 2015, Defendant Laverne Eugene Fortson, accompanied by Attorney James S. Gentile, executed a consent to referral of his case to a United States Magistrate Judge for the purpose of receiving his guilty plea.

2. Defendant Fortson then proffered a plea of guilty to the first count in the Superseding Indictment.

3. Prior to such proffer, Defendant Fortson was examined as to his competency, advised of the charge and consequences of conviction, informed that the Court is not bound to apply the Federal Sentencing Guidelines but must consult the guidelines and take them into consideration when it imposes the sentence and of the possibility of a departure from the Guidelines, notified of his rights, advised that he was waiving all of his rights except the right to counsel, and, if such were the case, his right to appeal, and otherwise provided with the information prescribed in Fed. Crim. R. 11.

4. The undersigned was advised that a written plea agreement existed between the parties, and no other commitments or promises have been made by any party, and no other written or unwritten agreements have been made between the parties.

5. The undersigned questioned Defendant Fortson under oath about the knowing, intelligent and voluntary nature of the plea of guilty, and the undersigned believes that Defendant Fortson's plea was offered knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.

6. The parties provided the undersigned with sufficient information about the charged offense and Defendant Fortson's conduct to establish a factual basis for the plea.

In light of the foregoing, and the record submitted herewith, the undersigned concludes that Defendant Fortson's plea was knowing, intelligent, and voluntary and all requirements imposed by the United States Constitution and Fed. R. Crim. P. 11 have been satisfied.

Accordingly, the undersigned recommends that the plea of guilty be accepted and a finding of guilty be entered by the Court as to the first count in the Superseding Indictment.

Date: February 13, 2015

/s/George J. Limbert

George J. Limbert
United States Magistrate Judge

ANY OBJECTIONS to this Report and Recommendation must be filed with the Clerk of Court within fourteen (14) days of service of this notice. Fed. R. Crim. P. 59. Failure to file objections within the specified time constitutes a WAIVER of the right to appeal the Magistrate Judge's recommendation. *Id.*